

### The Modern 'Elizabethan' Era.

On the death of King George VI at Sandringham on 6th February 1952, a new era began when his elder daughter Elizabeth succeeded to the throne. Soon after the king's death the Post Office invited artists to submit designs for a new series of postage stamps. Twenty artists responded to the call, submitting seventy-five designs.

The Post Office, Printers, and an advisory panel jointly selected the successful designs, and essays were produced in August 1952.

The first stamps of the young Queen (the 1½d and 2½d values of what became known as the 'Wilding' issue) were introduced on 5th December 1952, just ten months after the death of the king.



© Dorothy Wilding Ltd.

Although new values were issued on a progressive basis, almost three years would pass before all the stamps of the late King had been replaced, the last being the 2/6d and 5/- values on 23rd September 1955. The full list of stamps (including the resurrected 4½d value) is as follows:

5 <sup>th</sup> December 1952	.....	1½d, 2½d
6 <sup>th</sup> July 1953	.....	5d, 6d, 8d, 1/-
31 <sup>st</sup> August 1953	.....	½d, 1d, 2d
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 1953	.....	4d, 1/3d, 1/6d
18 <sup>th</sup> January 1954	.....	3d, 6d, 7d
8 <sup>th</sup> February 1954	.....	9d, 10d, 11d
1 <sup>st</sup> September 1955	.....	10/-, £1
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 1955	.....	2/6d, 5/-
9 <sup>th</sup> February 1959	.....	4½d

The Perfin Society uses code letters for specific postage stamp issues, and the Wilding definitives and associated high value stamps have been allocated the code letter 'U'. These code letters are used as shorthand in the *New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins*, and since publication of the first section in 1994, individual stamp details for each issue have been recorded against each known G.B. Perfin. Although the G.B. catalogue will not be complete until **2016**, now seems a good time to report on the issue, along with a summary of the number of different Perfins found on each stamp.

Currently there are **24,760** different Perfin dies found on G.B. Postage Stamps, of which **2,235** (*i.e.* **9%**) can be found on 'Wildings', totaling **15,149** different stamps. For simplicity only details of the basic stamps have been recorded, ignoring shade, watermark and paper changes, as well as leaving behind the complexity of phosphor bands, their colours and their positions. The Graphite-lined issues are the subject of a separate study. {Correct to **1<sup>st</sup> January 2019**}.

The figure below each stamp on the following pages is the number of different G.B. Perfin dies known on that particular stamp.

**The New Stamp Designs and their Designers.**

The low-value definitives consist of five different designs from five artists, all incorporating the portrait of the Queen from a photograph taken by Dorothy Wilding (1893-1976).

**Miss Enid Marx** (1902-1998).

Graphic designer and artist who worked with many different media, including watercolours, woodcuts, linocuts, engravings, hand-blocked textiles, wallpapers, book jackets, posters, jam pot labels, as well as designing postage stamps. Clients for her woven textile designs included the London Underground (1937). Enid Marx died in May 1998.

Stanley Gibbons type S1.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d



1,004 dies



949 dies



1,409 dies



1,520 dies

Note: 2d Light-brown illustrated, but die count also includes the original dark-brown variety.

**Michael C Farrar-Bell** (1911-1993).

Artist and stained glass designer, with workshops in Haddenham, Cambridgeshire. Master of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers & Painters of Glass in 1974. He also designed the 1/6d Queen Elizabeth II Coronation stamp.

Stanley Gibbons types S2/3.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 4d,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d



1,681 dies



1,485 dies



1,126 dies



551 dies

**George Thomas Knipe** (1918-2006).

Trained as a printer with the UK company, Harrisons - employed as a commercial artist in the 1940s and 1950s. He also designed G.B. postage stamps, including (with Joan Hassall) the Royal Silver Jubilee stamps of King George VI. George Knipe died early on in 2006.

Stanley Gibbons type S4.

5d, 6d, 7d



341 dies



1,148 dies



184 dies

**Miss Mary Adshead** (1904-1995).

Muralist and painter, born 15<sup>th</sup> February 1904, died 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1995. Also designed the 2/6d and 5/- '1951' High Values of KGVI, 2½d GVI UPU, and the 2½d Scout Jubilee Jamboree stamp.

Stanley Gibbons type S5.

8d, 9d, 10d, 11d



216 dies



406 dies



201 dies



121 dies

**Edmund Dulac** (1882-1953).

French artist, book illustrator, and postage stamp designer. Also designed the King George VI definitive series (with Eric Gill), the 2/6d and 5/- 1939 High Values of King George VI, 1937 Coronation, 1/- Olympic Games, 2½d Festival of Britain, and the 1/3d Queen Elizabeth II Coronation stamps.

Stanley Gibbons types S6/7.

1/-, 1/3d, 1/6d



932 dies



342 dies



291 dies

The designer of the '*high values*' was **Lynton Lamb** (1907-1977), artist, lithographer, illustrator, and postage stamp designer. The design also incorporated the portrait of the Queen by Dorothy Wilding Ltd. Three printers were used throughout the life of the issue - Waterlow, De La Rue, and Bradbury Wilkinson.



Carrickfergus - 408 dies



Caernarvon - 261 dies



Edinburgh - 168 dies



Windsor - 83 dies

The '*high values*' were the first of the Wildings to be replaced (by the Sterling Machin issues) on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1969 - Perfin Society Code 'V' 2/6d, 5/-, 10/-, and £1.

The same basic information is presented below in tabular form. Please note that the category involving a question mark is the result of incomplete recording in the late 1980's and early 1990's of either colour or type. It is hoped that 'in the fullness of time' these will all be resolved and assigned to their correct category.

TOTALS for issue 'U'				
	DD		DDF	
Overall >	2,235		15,149	
	1,004	½d		
	949	1d		
	1,409	1½d		
	1,520	2d		
			2d ??	263
			2d dark brown	514
			2d light brown	1,062
	1,681	2½d		
	1,485	3d		
	1,126	4d		
	551	4½d		
	341	5d		
	1,148	6d		
	184	7d		
	216	8d		
	406	9d		
	201	10d		
	121	11d		
	932	1/-		
	342	1/3d		
	291	1/6d		
	408	2/6d		
	261	5/-		
	168	10/-		
	83	£1		
Reference only - Replacement High values, issue 'V'				
	DD			
Overall >	115		181	
	88	2/6d	SG787	
	53	5/-	SG788	
	20	10/-	SG789	
	20	£1	SG790	

The above summary lists the number of *all known G.B. Perfin dies* found on the *Wilding issue*, and is correct to *1<sup>st</sup> January 2019*.